4: Richter M, G-5 (ca. 1856-1870) 1870 AW5 Coorg AW5

133 and the whole length of the instep by the Mysore boundary. Compared with the gigantic extent of the Indian Peninsula, Coorg is but of baby's size, however large it may appear to its inhabitants.

[103] As the Badaga people on the Nilagiris have been named Burghers, so is "Coorg" anglicised from Kodagu or Kodumale, a name which it has borne from the remotest ages and which in its meaning—"Steep mountains" graphically depicts the character of this remarkable alpine land.

2. General description of Coorg,

its mountains and their formation, its rivers and their course, its forests and their general flora and fauna.

Aspect of Coorg. Standing on a bright November morning on the summit of the Brahmagiri near Tala-Káveri, (tale *Kg.* head) the observer is filled with delight and admiration of the grand and picturesque view, that opens out before him. As far as the eye can reach to the north-west and south-east it beholds ridge after ridge of grassy or forest-clad hills, now gently sloping down in gentle wavy lines, now bold and abrupt, raising their steep summits into the clear, blue air. Kudurcmukha-betta, the far seen landmark of the mariner, bursts into view from Canara; the Bettadapur and Chámundi hill in Mysore, the Wynád mountains of Malabar and Dodda-betta of the distant Nilagiris are clearly visible, and in the west at a distance of about 30 miles below the steep precipices of the Ghats the coast-line of North Malabar and South Canara, intersected by broad, bright, serpentine rivers and the dark-blue Indian Ocean with its sailing craft fascinate the spectator.

[137] Coorg itself is covered by forest, save here and there where the clearing of a coffee plantation or ragi patch or the park-like open glades (Báné) with their beautiful green sward and varied foliage afford a charming variety to the landscape.

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133 The minor streams vary only in size, which depends upon the length of their course, their general characteristics being the same. They swell with the freshes in the early part of June and flow with violent and boisterous rapidity till October, when they gradually subside in their normal dimensions.

[132] The south-westerly monsoon floods the uplands of Coorg against which it partially breaks, with such a torrent of rain, that during its prevalence small rills, out of which a thirsty herd does not care to drink, are suddenly transformed into streams that are impassable for many days.

133 Of the rivers that flow to the westward the *Barapole*
103 (bare *Can.* empty, bare; pole or hole *Can.* river) is the most considerable. It rises with the *Lakshmana-tírta* and *Pápanáshe* on the same plateau of the Brahmagiri hills in Kiggatnád and flows for several miles in almost a straight line through a deep mountain gorge, where it is joined by a tributary that falls over a perpendicular rock of great height and forms a beautiful cascade near the Kudiál coffee estate. Near the Malayalam frontier the Barapole leaps into a chasm upwards of 200 feet deep, and forms a waterfall that, with the wild gloomy forest scenery around, is remarkably picturesque. Then for two miles this river runs along the Coorg frontier up to the point where the *Kallahole* (kallu *Can.* stone) descending through the Heggala-pass unites with it, when the combined streams enter Malabar and debouch near Chirneal

[487] into the sea. The Barapole receives the rainfall of 192 square miles, and is navigable from the sea to within 16 miles off the foot of the Ghats. Near Chávachári on the road to Cannanore it is spanned by a wooden bridge, resting on high stone pillars.

The next stream of importance is the *Nujikal* which drains the Sampáji valley, and follows the main road as far as Sulya, when it turns to the west, receives a tributary that originates on the western slopes of the Todicána-pass and Tala-Káveri,

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and falls, under the name of Basavani river, near Kasergóde, into the sea. C 133 103

The *Kumáradhári* (Kumára *Sans.* son, god of war, the son of Shiva; dhára *Sans.* edge, stream) rises near the Subramanya hill and carries off but little of the Coorg waters. For some distance it forms the northern boundary along the Bisilu-pass (bisilu *Can.* heat). A number of tributaries from north and south swell its waters, the largest of them being the *Nétrávati* (nétra *Sans.* eye) which joins it near the village Uppinangadi (uppu *Can.* salt, angadi mart) and thenceforth gives its own name to the rest of the course of this fine river, which near Mangalore meets the sea. The Nétrávati, though useless for purposes of irrigation, is of considerable commercial value. C [487] Boats of large size are safely carried from Mangalore as far as Bantwal or Pánemangalur and smaller craft proceed even beyond Uppinangadi.

The chief of the Coorg rivers, both as to size and importance, is the *Kávéri*; considering the volume of water it gathers during a course of nearly 400 miles through Mysore, along Salem and Coimbatore through Trichinopoly to Tanjore, where it is almost lost in that garden of India; the Kávéri may well be included amongst the principal rivers of the Peninsula. It rises on the Brahmagiri at a place called Tala-Kávéri (tale *Can.* head) on the very verge of the Western Ghats, where they form a sharp angle with the Benganád range. Another stream, the Kánake, starts close by and after a short run joins the Kávéri at the foot of the hill near the village Bhágamandala (bhágia *Sans.* wealth, felicity; mandala, region). At I [778] both places on the top and at the foot of the hill there are [788] temples of great repute for sanctity among the Hindus, which [823] are yearly resorted to by thousands of pilgrims from the adjoining countries. The Kávéri is, according to Brahminical [805] legend, the holiest river in India. Even the holy goddess Ganga resorts underground to the all purifying floods of the

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C 133 Kávéri once a year in Tulámása (tulá *Sans.* the sign of Libra;
• 103 mása, lunar month) i. e. October, November, to wash away the
I pollution, contracted from the crowds of sinners, who have
[178] bathed in her own waters.
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[505]

The course of this fine river through Coorg is very tortu-
ous, but below Bhágamandala its current with the exception
of a few localities, where it traverses beds of granite rock, is
C [134] generally tranquil. Its banks which are high and steep are
usually formed of rich clay or mould and covered with luxu-
riant tropical vegetation. The bed over which it flows differs
in various places, being alternately sandy, pebbly or rocky,
but the latter feature is predominant. In the dry season it is
fordable at almost all points, but there is always a good body
of water, considering the vicinity of its source.

During the monsoon it rises to an impetuous torrent
whose mud-stained waters roll with thundering velocity
through its wide channel, floating down shrubs and trees
from its crumbling banks and overflowing for a few days
the adjoining country. During these freshes the river rises
C [49] near Fraserpet, where it is spanned by a magnificent stone
bridge 516 feet in length, to a height of 20 to 30 feet.

Descending through the great valley between Mercara
and Nálkanád, the Kávéri makes a sudden turn near Siddhapur
(Siddha *Sans.* a divine person) to the north and flows for 25
miles along the eastern frontier, being swollen in its course
by several large tributaries. From the Tadiandamól it receives
the Kakabe river which separates for some distance Padinálka-
nád from Katiednád. In Beppunád it is joined by the
Kadanur river, and in Yeddenalkanád by the Kummahole.

The Muttáremutta collects the waters of the southern
slope of the Mercara ridge, and the Chikkahole those of the
valley of Horárnárokalnád. The *Háringi* or Suvarnavati
(Suvarna *Sans.* gold) with the Kakehole from Sómawarpet,
the Chóvanhole[1] from Shanthalli, the Mattapur and Hattehole

[1] [Errata: this should read "Choran-hole".
See Corrigenda sheet, Cat. 116, p. 473 — Analyst]

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from Kóte-betta drain the whole northern plateau of Coorg and add an immense bulk of water to the Kávéri. Almost every one of these mountain streams forms in its descent over rocky beds cascades of great beauty. One near Mercara, the Jesse-fall (so called in honor of a daughter of the first chaplain of Mercara) is much admired and frequently visited by picnic parties. Some of the coffee estates along the Sampáji valley are notable for pleasing cataracts.

The rivers of Coorg which fall into the Kávéri beyond the province are Hémavati (héma *Sans.* gold) and the Lakshmanatirtha. The former rises near the Bhadra river, south of Westára in the Kadúr district of Mysore, and after passing Marjarábád, it forms for a few miles the northern boundary of Coorg and joins the Kávéri in the Yedatore taluk of Mysore near the village Tippúr. The Lakshmanatirtha with its tributaries the Kakotta and Kerehole drains nearly the whole of Kiggatnád. It rises in the forest Munikádu, on the plateau of the Brahmagiris, and in its descent over an almost perpendicular mountain-wall forms a celebrated cataract, which by Brahminical priestcraft has been invested with sin cleansing virtue, and is consequently visited at the Irpu játre by thousands of superstitious devotees. The banks of this river like those of the Kávéri are of clay or mould, steep, with a sandy bottom and shaded by dense forest or bamboo clumps.

Lakes, Tanks, Wells.—Throughout Coorg there is not a lake or tank of any size worth mentioning. In Kiggatnád only there are a few natural reservoirs, called Kolli, enclosed by a belt of small trees and containing water all the year round. A tank 3 miles north of Somawarpet is notable for its picturesque rock scenery and the legend connected with it, which does not however accord with the inscription written upon a stone on the western outlet of the tank. The writing runs thus: "The King Andany has ordered this tank to be built on Tuesday the tenth day of the month of Phál-

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B. THE ADMINISTRATION OF COORG.

1. SUBDIVISION OF COORG FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES. SKETCH OF THE SEVERAL TALUQS AND TOWNS.

631 [177] On the assumption of Coorg by the British Government, the existing administrative organisation of the country, hallowed by age and routine, was as little as possible interfered with; but in progress of time such changes took place, as were deemed necessary for the better administration of the province. At present Coorg is divided into six taluqs and twenty-four nâds, each of which is again subdivided into grâmas or villages, which in "Coorg Proper" are made up of a number of vargas or farms rather, than of a number of houses joined into one community, for, as already observed, the Coorgs live on detached farms. In Yélusávirashíme— and part of Nanjarájpatna-taluq, the subdivisions are denominated "Hoblis" instead of nâds, and in these two taluqs the greatest number of regular villages is found.

[184]

631 128 131 632 ● 103 In the following table the divisions of Coorg are exhibited, together with the area in square miles, the number of villages and the seat of the Kacheri of each taluq and nâd, from which statement it will be seen, that Coorg on an area of 1585 square miles contains 508 villages besides the towns: Mádapet (Mercara), Vírájpet, Fraserpet, Sómwárpet, Kodlipet and Ponnappet.

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245

(A)	(B)
(C)	(D)

Chart of Positions of End Map. /facing End Map/

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102
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133
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634
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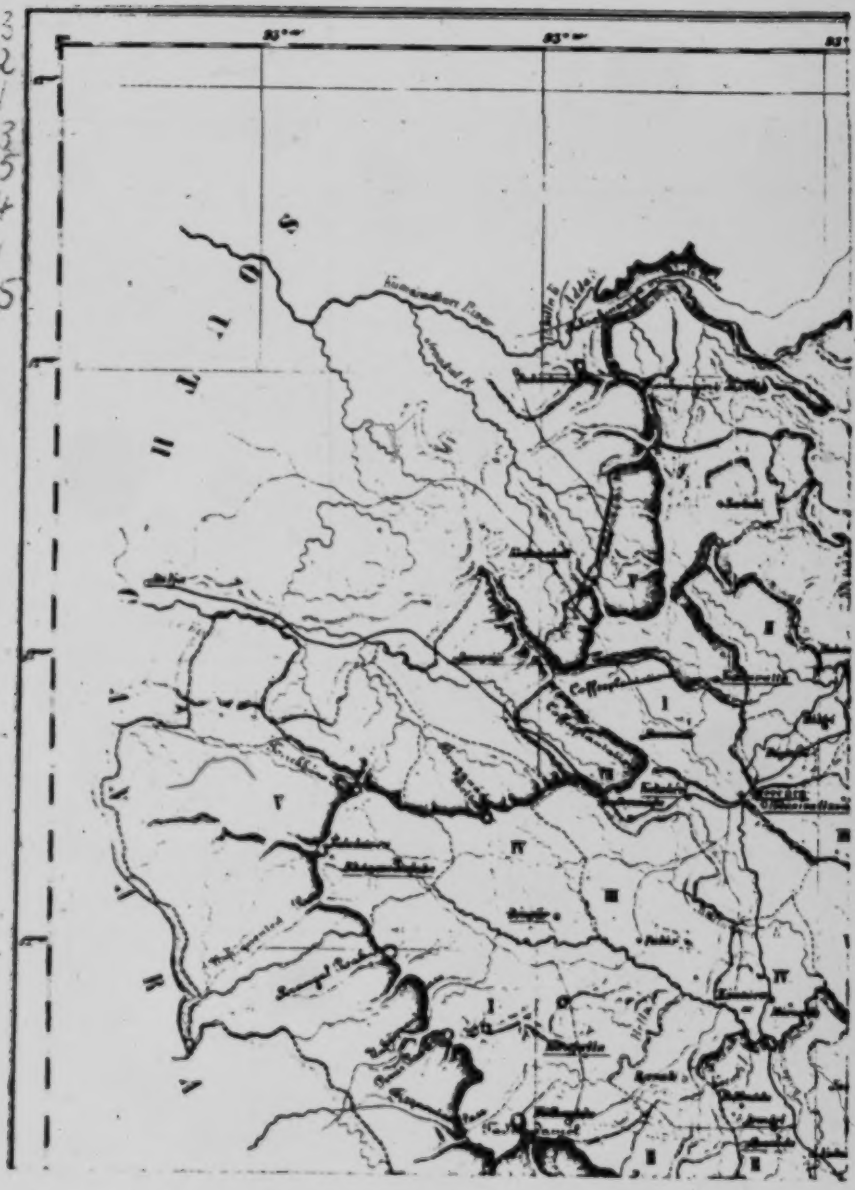

[End Map (A)]

4: Richter M, G-5 (ca. 1856-1870) 1870 AW5 Coorg AW5

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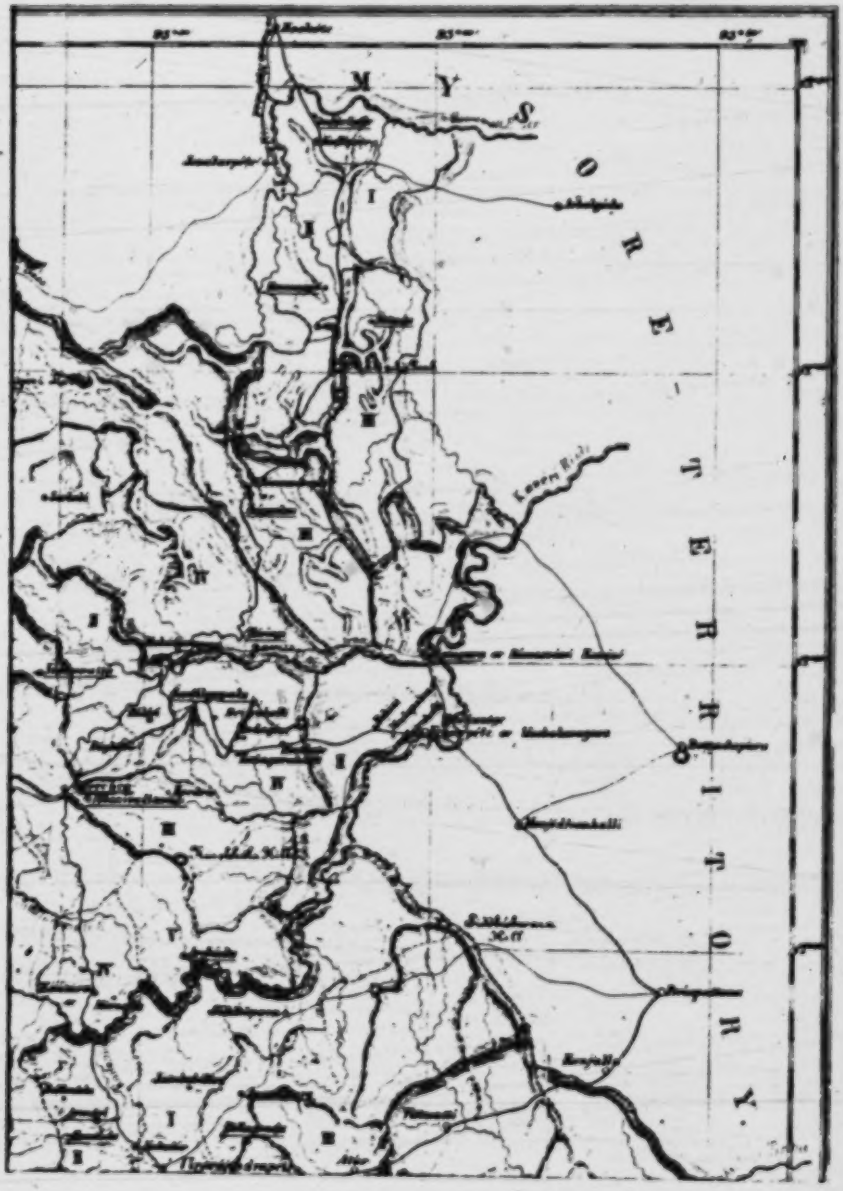

[End Map (B)]

4· Richter M, G-5 (ca. 1856-1870) 1870 AW5 Coorg AW5

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[End Map (c)]

[The colors appearing in the original of this map have not reproduced. In the original Mercara Taluk is light-green, Padinalkanadu is color-less, Yedenalka Nadu is orange, Kiggatnadu is dark-green, Nanjarajapete is yellow and Yelusavirashime is blue. -- Analyst]

4: Richter M, G-5 (ca. 1856-1870) 1870 AW5 Coorg AW5

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[End Map (D)]